

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows (the amendments made herein reference the published application):

Please amend Paragraph [0010] as follows:

[0010] On the contrary, only ~~chippings~~ course aggregate, and optionally sand with no fines, are dried. They are lightly laden with water (the first portion of the aggregate is generally 2 to 3 times less laden with water than the second portion), they are easier to dry than aggregate containing fines, and they do not generate much dust, so that the energy consumption and the flue gas emissions during heating are reduced considerably.

Please amend Paragraph [0016] as follows:

[0016] the first portion of the aggregate comprises ~~chippings~~ course aggregate (aggregate of particle size generally lying in the range 4 millimeters (mm) to 20 mm), whereas the second portion of the aggregate comprises sand (aggregate of particle size generally smaller than 4 mm) and fines only;

Please amend Paragraph [0031] as follows:

[0031] ~~chippings~~ course aggregate, e.g. having a particle size lying in the range 4 mm to 20 mm.

Please amend Paragraph [0033] as follows:

[0033] In order to obtain a given weight E of bituminous coated aggregate mix, use is made of a weight G of ~~chippings~~ course aggregate, a weight S of sand and fines, and a weight B of bitumen, where E is substantially equal to G+S+B.

Please amend Paragraph [0035] as follows:

[0035] This coating plant 1 may, for example, include aggregate storage hoppers 2 in which a first portion of the aggregate that enters into the composition of the bituminous coated aggregate mix is stored. Said first portion of the aggregate has no fines, and, for example, includes all of the chippings course aggregate G and optionally a portion of the sand that enters into the composition of the coated aggregate mix to be manufactured (in particular coarse sand without any fines, of particle size lying in the range 2 mm to 4 mm, for example). Said first portion of the aggregate may, for example, represent in the range 25% of the total weight of the aggregate G+S to 80% of said total weight, and advantageously in the range 50% of said total weight to 75% of said total weight.

Please amend Paragraph [0050] as follows:

[0050] The initial mixing is continued for a time (e.g. less than 2 minutes) sufficient to obtain full coating of the chippings course aggregate and sand making up the first portion of aggregate.

Please amend Paragraph [0055] as follows:

[0055] In a first implementation of the invention, the initial temperature of the first portion of the aggregate may lie in the range 100° C. to 160° C., and preferably in the range 110° C. to 130° C. at the outlet of the drier 4, and this temperature is chosen so that the bituminous coated aggregate mix obtained after mixing in the mixer 5 is at a temperature lying in the range 50° C. to 100° C., and preferably in the range [[50°]] 60° C. to 100° C.

Please amend Paragraph [0056] as follows:

[0056] By way of example, for a mix containing 66% of ~~chippings~~ course aggregate and 33% of sand and fines, by heating the ~~chippings~~ course aggregate alone to 150° in the drier, a final coated aggregate mix temperature of in the range 95° C. to 100° C. is obtained after one minute of mixing.